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EMBELLISHED WITH AN ENGRAVING OF CUPID, FROM THE STATUE BY R. WESTMACOTT, ESQ., R. A.

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EDITOR'S NOTICE.

In our last address to the public, we observed that "the Editor intended giving a series of Essays on the genius of the British Poets, to form the leading article of the Magazine from the commencement of the next volume." Several of our literary friends, however, have endeavoured to convince us that we would gratify the public taste more by mingling them with occasional Essays on the genius and writings of the Greek, Latin, Italian, French and Spanish Poets; not forgetting, at the same time, any poet, no matter to what country he belongs, who has either rendered himself immortal, or deserves to become immortal by his works. Whether the arguments made use of to convince us of the truth of this opinion, be conclusive or not, they assumed, in our eyes at least, such an appearance of truth, such an accordance with that restless spirit of curiosity,—that endless thirst of endless knowledge which characterizes man, that we could not help yielding to them. Accordingly we have commenced this part of our labours with an Essay on the Genius and Writings of Homer. Our article on the Periodical Press, is unavoidably delayed till next month: it will afterwards appear regularly, and our reasons for delaying it satisfactorily accounted for.

In our present number will appear three poems, "The Martyr of Spain," "A Dream," continued from our last number, and "Ali," all from the same pen, modestly signed B. The first communication we received from him was his "Lament of Despair," which appeared in a former number, in which we solicited a continuance of his communications. We did so because we perceived he possessed the true poetic spirit,—that richness, variety and delicacy of imagination which neither art nor science can impart; and which, nature reserves for her own peculiar favorites. We perceived that he was capable of a still higher flight than that which he ventured to take in his "Lament of

DESPAIR." He has responded to our invitation, perhaps because he perceived we were not insensible to his merits; and we are happy to say that we have prophesied aright, and that all his subsequent communications are of a still higher and sublimer character. At present, however, we choose merely to draw the attention of our readers to his productions: the claims of genius require this at our hands, and it is a duty which we shall always discharge with pleasure, though we doubt whether such a practice is sanctioned by the authority of our contemporary conductors of the Periodical Press. In these matters, however, we shall always judge for ourselves. We shall never tread in the footsteps of others except while they tread in the footsteps of nature, or, at least, while we imagine they do so. He who follows a fixed plan can seldom be natural, because, though all the laws of nature proceed from one immutable principle or *primum mobile*, they possess in themselves an endless variety always adapting themselves to each other, and consequently shifting their present aspect. Whilever, therefore, we can satisfy ourselves that we follow nature, we shall give ourselves no concern about what our contemporaries follow. We shall only add, that having called the attention of our readers to the communications of B., we shall, in a future number, enter into a critical examination of their merits. His "ALI" consists of three cantos which will be regularly continued.

Answers for several of our correspondents will be left at our publishers.

H. Corbould

Engraved by

CUPID.

from a Statue by R. Westmacott Esq. R.A.